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U.S. Children's Bureau

Self-directed group study of prenatal, infant...

Washington

1928

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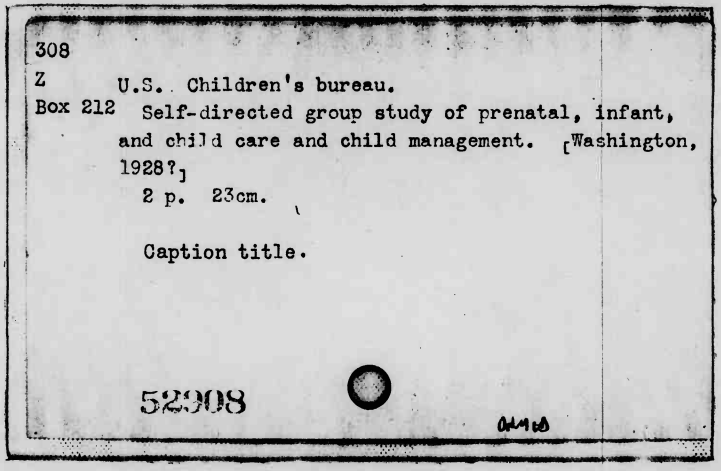
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

WASHINGTON

SELF-DIRECTED GROUP STUDY OF PRENATAL, INFANT, AND CHILD CARE AND CHILD MANAGEMENT

(Stimulation of groups for self-directed study of prenatal, infant, and child care and child management is one of the valuable activities of a health agent)

I. The groups who might do such work.

For groups that already have been established in the community the self-directed study of prenatal, infant, and child care and child management should be made one of the activities; or interested women may be organized in study groups through the efforts of effective leaders.

II. The organization of groups.

In order to organize study groups, contacts should be made individually with women who seem to be leaders in the community or who have shown interest in child-care problems. When several leaders have been approached, group meetings should be held to develop plans for organization and further procedure.

III. Requirements of study groups.

1. A leader who is willing and anxious to work.
2. Each leader pledged to interest at least 10 women.
3. A definite number of meetings for each group (six is a desirable number), with definite plans for each meeting.

IV. Responsibilities of the organizer of study groups.

1. To provide advice or speakers for meetings of leaders and for one or more meetings of the individual groups.
2. To supply study materials.
3. To consult with the leaders of each group and to help arrange the program.
4. To inspire further advanced or intensive study of certain topics.

V. The kind of study materials needed and the sources for obtaining them.

1. Study materials should be provided for each meeting. Their important characteristic is to furnish something for mothers to do; the purpose is not merely to give information but rather to suggest real activities for them. Study materials on prenatal, infant, and child care and child management are being developed by different agencies. The organizer of the study classes should get all available material and should aid group leaders to decide on the types best fitted to their needs.

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2. Comprehensive reading material should be provided also. This can be furnished through traveling libraries supplied by the State library association, State departments of health and of education, the extension service of the State university, Federal departments, and other sources.

VI. Methods of cooperation.

1. Supplementary study materials might be furnished to other groups for use in health projects not yet undertaken.
2. The organizer of the study groups should ascertain whether any groups in the community are being reached by agencies that organize study groups or supply them with materials for study.
3. The use of still other agencies should be stimulated as much as possible.

VII. Some agencies known to be organizing study groups or supplying them with material for study.

Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Federal Board for Vocational Education, cooperating with State departments of education.

Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating with State agricultural colleges.

National Congress of Parents and Teachers (Inc.), 1201 I Street NW., Washington, D. C.

American Association of University Women, 1634 I Street NW., Washington, D. C.

Child Study Association of America, 54 West Seventy-fourth Street, New York.

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